



The President's Daily Brief

23 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The government counteroffensives in the northern provinces of South Vietnam are making some headway.

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[REDACTED] (Page 1)

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The Japanese.

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[REDACTED] (Page 3)

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Some of Chile's senior military leaders are once again talking about moving against President Allende. (Page 4)

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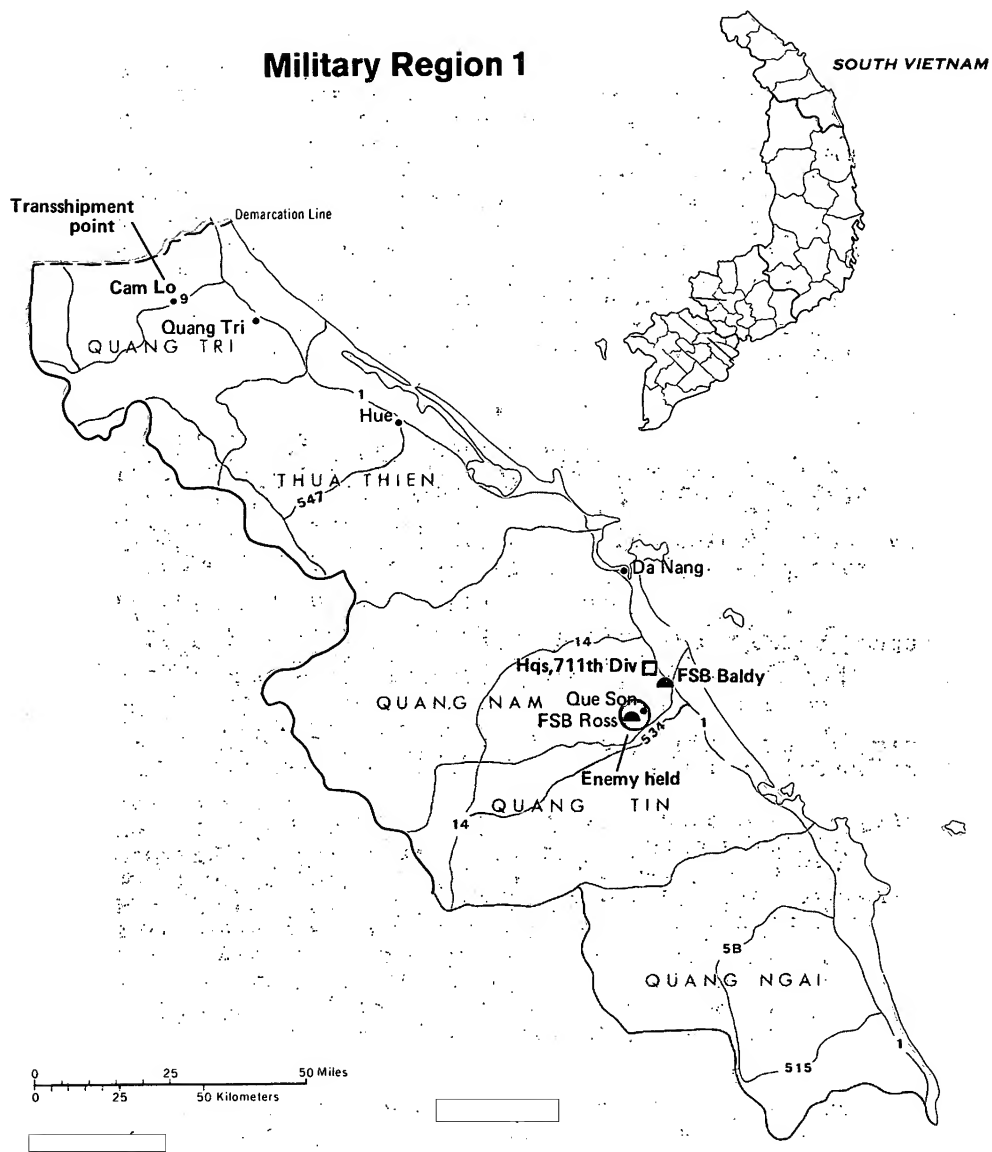
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The situation in Uganda is deteriorating, largely because of the increasingly irrational behavior of President Amin. (Page 6)

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Military Region 1

SOUTH VIETNAM



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VIETNAM

Government counteroffensives in the northern provinces are making some headway. South Vietnamese forces in coastal Quang Nam Province, moving against relatively light Communist opposition, are within two miles of enemy-held Fire Support Base Ross. The Saigon troops are going slowly, depending for the most part on air strikes to clear the way.

For their part, the North Vietnamese appear to be preparing more attacks in the Quang Nam lowlands. The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 711th Division, directing the enemy offensive in this area, has been detected near Fire Support Base Baldy, the government's staging area and last major strongpoint in the Que Son Valley. The Communists are moving their large field pieces closer to the coast, and several 130-mm. artillery rounds have hit the base.

Enemy reinforcements and supplies are continuing to flow into the Quang Tri City area. Intercepts indicate that supplies and replacement personnel are en route to the North Vietnamese units tasked with both air and ground defense of the city. An 85-truck Communist convoy, estimated to be carrying about 340 tons of supplies, was to arrive at a transshipment point about 15 miles northwest of Quang Tri City earlier this week. Moreover, recent intercepts from a major way station in the North Vietnamese panhandle indicate that substantial amounts of artillery and other ammunition are still moving south.

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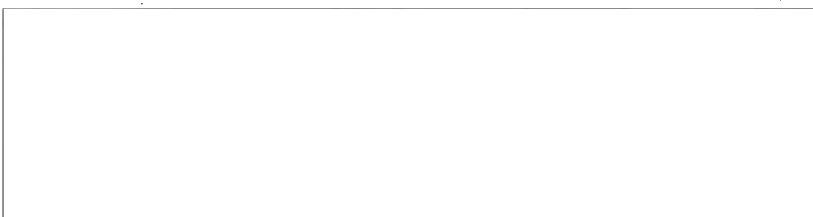
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JAPAN

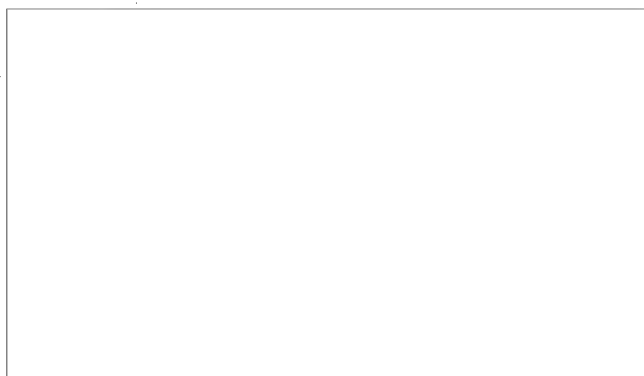
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CHILE

Deepening concern over the country's accumulating economic and political problems is prompting some senior military leaders to talk once again about moving against President Allende. [redacted] before the demonstrations in Santiago Monday night, the service commanders had agreed that eventual military intervention is almost inevitable. Some troop commanders are seeking an appointment with the army chief to discuss what they consider to be a deteriorating political situation.

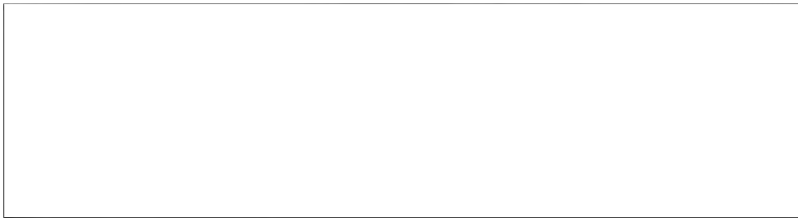
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The disaffected military officers will find it easier to agree on the need to take action against the Allende government than on when or how to mount any coup attempt. The tradition of a non-partisan military runs very deep in Chile. The military leaders no doubt will continue to debate for some time whether they should assume a more political role.

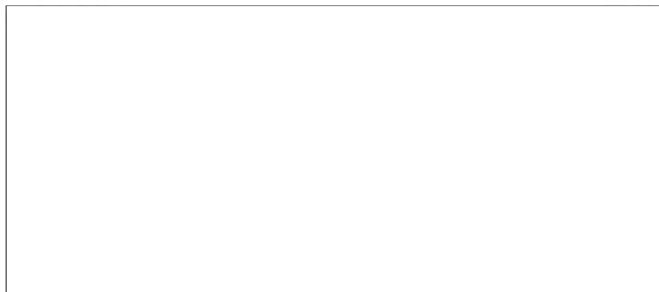
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UGANDA

[redacted] the situation in Uganda, while not yet explosive, is deteriorating rapidly and is likely to get worse.

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The principal problem, of course, is the increasingly irrational behavior of President Amin. His recent decision to expel non-Ugandan Asians from the country will undermine the already depressed economy. The Asians' departure will deprive Uganda of badly needed technical and entrepreneurial skills; few African Ugandans are prepared to fill this gap, and in consequence the standard of living is likely to drop sharply as unemployment rises and commerce slows.

Amin has held onto power so far by retaining the support of key military units--largely by staffing them with his fellow tribesmen. The Ugandan Army is unruly and undisciplined, however

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[redacted] Amin's grasp on the reins is far from steady, however, and further irrational moves on his part, a rapid deterioration of the economy, renewed tribal unrest, or a weakening of his military backing could result in his ouster.

Amin's latest move has been to threaten neighboring Rwanda because it still harbors an Israeli aid mission.

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